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From the Charleston Courier.

Negro Anecdotes.

1. A negro, in Columbia, S. C., had just purchased a new hat, which he stuck on his head in a very foolish style. Soon after he began to rain heavily, and Coffee doffed his hat and tucked it under his arm. A gentleman passed by, and observing the occurrence, said: "You fool, why don't you put on your hat, and save your head from the rain." Coffee's sagacious reply was: "Head belong to Massa, - hat belong to nigger, please Sir."

2. A gentleman from Charleston purchased a negro girl for a very considerable price, and she soon after was taken sick and came very near dying. When she was convalescent, her mistress, who had been very kind and attentive to her during her illness, went again to her chamber, and with the pious view of ascertaining what spiritual or religious impressions extreme illness and the near prospect of death had made upon the girl, said to her, "Sally, what were your thoughts and feelings when you believed yourself about to die." Ah! missis, said Sally, "was sorry to think how much massa give me for me!"

3. A negro fisherman in Norfolk, Va., came one day to his master, and said, "Massa, I want to buy myself free. I got free hundred dollars, sir; I'll pay you dat down; an' gib you de rest when I mak um." "Very well, Tom," said his master, "you have been a faithful fellow and I will comply with your wish." The money was accordingly paid, and the inebriate freedom of Tom commenced. A few days afterwards, Tom went out to fish with a fellow-servant; and there came a blow which compromised the fishing smack, and drowned Tom's companion. The next day Tom came to his master and said—Massa, I change my mind, sir; I don't want to buy myself free any more sir; please pay me back money, sir. "Why, Tom," said his master "you have already paid a large portion of your price, and by industry, in your profitable calling, you will soon earn, and pay the residue, and you had better carry out your original intention."

"No, massa," said Tom, "I rudder hab my money back—nigger property too an' sarrian, sir." Matters were, accordingly, put in statu quo, and Tom abandoned all chance of being a freed-man, and quietly and voluntarily returned to the condition of a slave, being unwilling to fish, on his own hook, in the troubled and perilous waters of freedom.

Mr. Simonton, the correspondent of the New York Times, has positively refused to testify before the corruption committee of Congress, and declares his determination to submit to any punishment that may be inflicted by the House, before he will betray the confidence of confidential communications. Mr. Chester has taken the same position; and so the power of the House is set at naught.

Mr. Harlan's minority in the recent election by the Iowa Legislature, was 30 over his Democratic opponent.

The New York Home Journal makes mention of a new invention for the ladies. It is a petticoat suspender by which strings, pins, &c., are rendered obsolete, and the necessity for hoops and tight lacing done away with.

The Sphygmoscope.—A London physician has invented a noble instrument, called the sphygmoscope, for indicating the movements of the heart. The instrument consists of a small chamber filled with spirits of wine, or other liquid, provided with a thin India rubber wall where it is applied to the chest. At the opposite extremity the chamber communicates with a glass tube, which rises above the level of the chamber. The liquid is put into the instrument until it stands in the tube a little above the level of the chamber; the pressure of the liquid in the little tube acts upon the elastic or yielding wall of India rubber, and causes it to protrude. When the India rubber chest piece receives an impulse on its exterior, it causes the fluid to be forced up the tube. The protruding wall of India rubber is driven inward, when it is brought in contact with that portion of the chest which is struck by the apex of the heart, and a rise in the tube takes place. The tube is supplied with a graduated scale, to denote the rise and fall with exactitude; on the top of the glass tube is a collar, to prevent the egress of the liquid; when employed this collar or valve is left open for the passage of the air.

NOTE EXEMPT.—In her life of George Washington, Mr. Kirkland gives us one close view of that stately lady, Mrs. Martha Washington: "If we were to give our private opinion," says Mrs. Kirkland, "we should say that Mrs. Martha Curtis Washington, with her large fortune, her strong domestic tastes and affections, and dutiful common sense character, exercises her full share of influence over the Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States of America. She had a very decided way of speaking, and as she never meddled in public affairs, we can easily imagine the General letting her have her own way in pretty much everything else.

"A guest at Mount Vernon happened to sleep in a room adjoining that occupied by the President and his lady. Late in the evening, when people had retired to their various chambers, he heard the lady delivering a very animated lecture to her lord and master upon some thing which he had done, that she thought ought to be done differently. To all this he listened in the profoundest silence, and when she, too, was silent, he opened his lips and spoke, 'now, good sleep to you, my dear.' This anecdote of the great man in his night cap, is quite characteristic of him, but it is

equally so of most lords and masters, who, we imagine, all receive certain lectures, as Mr. Candler and Washington did, in profound silence. Experience probably teaches them that it is the better way."

A DOVE ALIGHTING ON A COFFIN.—In Edinburgh, a short time ago, a respectable family in one of the quietest quarters in the city were thrown into mourning by the death of one of their number, and elderly lady. A night or two after the event a strange noise was heard at the window of the room where the coffin was lying. It seemed like the fluttering of the wings of a bird against the window-panes; and when the maid-servant appeared at the window for the purpose of raising it to examine into the cause of the noise, a beautiful white dove flew into the department and alighted upon the lid of the coffin. It offered no opposition when they attempted to secure it, and in the possession of the relatives of the deceased, who, resolved to preserve it carefully. Had the event happened in times past, when superstition held sway, it would undoubtedly have given rise to some strange imaginings relative to the departed.

Edinburgh Express.

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